

## **Status & Information Report: April 11 - April 15, 2011**

1. **ANNUAL EGG HUNT POSTPONED:** Takoma Park Recreation Department's Annual Egg Hunt scheduled for April 16, 2011, has been postponed due to the expected inclement weather and is rescheduled for April 23, 2011 at 11 a.m. sharp at Lee Jordan Field. For more information please contact Carey Antoszewski 301-891-7233. *(Recreation)*

2. **Celebrate Arbor Day!:** Celebrate Arbor Day on Saturday, April 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Black gum, paw paw, pitch pine, red bud, river birch, southern red oak, sweet gum and white oak tree seedlings will be given away on the Library lawn. In the event of rain, the celebration will take place under the walkway around the Community Center. *(Public Works)*

### **3. Official City Meetings Scheduled the Week of April 18, 2011:**

- City Council meeting, Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
- City Council meeting, Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium

All meetings are held in the Community Center and open to the public unless noted otherwise.

Contact [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org) to check for cancellations or for additional information.

*(City Clerk)*

4. **Certificate of Achievement:** The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Takoma Park by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. This is the fifth consecutive year that the City has received this award. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C. *(Finance)*

5. **Takoma-Piney Branch Park Update:** Work on the renovation of Takoma-Piney Branch Park is in full swing. Ed Wilhelm Field has been protected, necessary clearing has been done, and excavation of a stormwater detention pond will begin next week. Demolition of the picnic shelter and bathrooms will also occur soon. Residents living near the park will see a number of dump trucks over the next week or so related to the excavation work. As we learn more information about the overall renovation schedule, we will share it. *(Deputy City Manager)*

6. **County Budget:** The Montgomery County Council is meeting long hours reviewing the County Executive's proposed budget for FY 2012, which begins July 1. On Monday, the Council's Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee considered the proposed 5% cuts in Municipal Tax Duplication payments, and recommended Reconciliation List items to restore the funding to the FY 2011 level. Mayor Williams and City Manager Barbara Matthews spoke on behalf of all Montgomery County municipalities and, more specifically, on the Takoma Park police payment portion of the municipal tax duplication payment. Acceptance of the Reconciliation List items for the Takoma Park police payment could result in \$108,000 in additional funds for Takoma Park in the coming year. A decision on Reconciliation List items would not occur until mid to late May. On Thursday, Library Director Ellen Arnold-Robbins

and Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow attended the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee consideration of the Takoma Park Library Payment. Unlike last year, when the library payment was cut more than the County Executive's recommendation (to more closely approximate cuts to the Montgomery County Public Library system), the Committee voted to accept the County Executive's recommendation of a 5% cut rather than recommend the 9.7% cut the Executive proposed to cut the County libraries. The 5% cut represents about \$5,000 less for Takoma Park than last year. *(Deputy City Manager)*

**7. TKPK5K Early Bird Registration Ends! - April 18:** In addition to filing tax returns, April 18 is the last day to sign up for early bird registration rates for a \$2 to \$5 discount per person to run or walk in the 5K or fun run and also to receive a t-shirt guaranteed to be in your selected size. Register online at [www.TKPK5K.com](http://www.TKPK5K.com) or in forms available at the Takoma Park Community Center. This events builds awareness of walking and biking to school and also supports year long walking, biking and health related programs at elementary and middle schools serving Takoma Park. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**8. Third Thursday Poetry Reading - April 21:** Celebrate National Poetry Month! Join us on Thursday, April 21 for an hour of original work by poets Mary Beth Hatem, Sally Rosen Kindred, Joshua Gray and Don Berger. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. This is a FREE EVENT. <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=149453155119489>. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Bag It Screening - April 28:** The new, award-winning environmental documentary Bag It will be screened at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 28. Bag It follows everyman Jeb Berrier as he tries to make sense of our dependence on plastic bags. Screening is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Mahbood and the Mystic Love Band - April 30:** Mahbood Len Seligman, a WAMMIE-nominated singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, celebrates the release of his new CD, *Head Over Heels*, on Saturday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. A joyous, eclectic mix of original spiritual music. Admission fee is \$15. Concert benefits the 9/11 Unity Walk, a non-profit that supports education, compassion, and service in response to religious intolerance across the globe. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**11. Accepting Applications for Exhibits Coordinator:** The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is seeking an individual to coordinate the Takoma Park Community Center exhibits program. The selected individual would serve from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Submissions are due on or before 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2011. Visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**12. Takoma Park Poet Laureate - Call for Nominations:** The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission is soliciting nominees for the Takoma Park Poet Laureate. The selected poet would serve from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013. Submissions are due on or before 4:30 P.M. on Monday, May 9, 2011. For details, go to [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). *(Housing and Community Development)*

**13. Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge at Whole Foods (City-wide):** On April 14, Whole Foods donated 5% of their net profits which amounted to \$5,516.70 to the Safe Routes to School Takoma Park 5K Challenge. Volunteers joined Lucy Neher, the City's program coordinator in bright orange TKPK5K T-shirts, showed-off a slide show of the race, gave out pencils, Safe Routes to School newsletters and walk/bike to school educational materials to shoppers.

*(Housing and Community Development)*

**14. City Planners Get New Ideas and Make Connections (City-wide):** This week was a good one for networking on planning issues. Staff planner Ilona Blanchard attended the American Planning Association's national conference where she also attended a class on negotiation. HCD Director Sara Daines participated in a "responsible redevelopment" discussion sponsored by MHP, meeting with community leaders from St. Paul Minnesota to discuss their experience in planning for the light rail line in their community. The Planning Division will be closed on Friday while staff attend Makeover Montgomery: Innovative Strategies for Rethinking America's Suburbs. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**15. Free Classes - Credit and Financial Management and First Time Home Buying:** Don't delay....sign up now for Credit Management (April 27 and May 11) and Financial Management classes (May 25, June 8 and June 22), all sponsored by the City of Takoma Park to be held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park from 7pm-9:15pm. If you are interested in becoming a homeowner for the first time, don't miss out on our First Time Homebuyer's class, to be held on Saturday, May 14 from 8:30am-1:30pm. Pre-registration for any of the classes is required by calling 301-891-7222. *(Housing and community Development)*

**16. Rent Stabilization Allowance set at 3% for July 1, 2011 - June 2012:** If you are a tenant residing in a rental unit that is subject to rent stabilization, you should note that the rent stabilization allowance for the period, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 has been set at 3%. That means that your landlord cannot take a rent increase for a current tenant that is above 3% during that period of time, unless the landlord has filed a Fair Return Rent Increase Petition with COLTA and has been awarded an increase that is higher than the 3%. According to Takoma Park code, the rent stabilization allowance shall equal the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers all items, series ID:CUURA311SAO) from March in the preceding year to March in the current year. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**17. Teen Fitness Program Begins:** On Fridays from 5:00 6:30 p.m. Takoma Park Recreation Center is offering a Teen Fitness program. Youth ages 12-17 will learn proper exercise techniques and cardio/fitness room etiquette, plus the importance of a well-balanced fitness program that will help them become physically and mentally stronger. This program will also teach basic principles of nutrition, stretching, and cardiovascular training. *(Recreation)*

**18. Recreation Staff Networks:** Recreation Department staff Lew McAlister (Sports Coordinator) Faye Wright (Teen Coordinator) and Paula Lisowski (Senior Coordinator) attended the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association State Conference on Wednesday and Thursday this week. *(Recreation)*

19. **Track Skills Clinic Gets Off to a Good Start!:** This past Tuesday, kids enjoyed the first day of the Track Skills Clinic. Participants learned how to stretch, warm-up, and run using proper techniques. Please visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation) for more information about this program. *(Recreation)*

20. **Teen "Choose Respect" Conference:** On Saturday, April 9, Takoma Park Recreation Staff escorted teens to the second annual Choose Respect Teen Dating Conference held at the Montgomery College Cultural Center. Teens and parents attended individual workshop sessions on healthy teen dating behavior, recognizing abuse in dating and misuse of technology. The adult sessions were offered in English and Spanish. This event was free and open to the public. *(Recreation)*

21. **Seniors Learn About George Washington:** Fifteen seniors traveled by recreation bus on Tuesday, April 12, to the George Washington Masonic Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. They learned about the memorial created to educate and promote the character and vision of the first President, and the history of American Freemasonry. *(Recreation)*

22. **Walk-in Registration Event:** On Saturday, April 9, 2011, the Takoma Park Recreation Department joined forces with TP/SS Baseball and hosted a special walk-in registration. Participants were given the opportunity to register for Recreation Programs and received handouts on upcoming events. *(Recreation)*

23. **An Officer in Meetings:** On 4-14, Capt. Coursey attended the regularly scheduled Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting. Agenda items included adoption of the Committee's Strategic Plan, outreach and communications issues for the upcoming months, and upcoming EPC participation in the nationwide "Formidable Footprint" tabletop exercise for community organizations. This exercise will be evaluated by the committee to determine if there is value in participation in future exercises as a demonstration tool to enhance participation of community groups in emergency management efforts. *(Police)*

24. **Crime Report:** The most recent Takoma Park Police Weekly Crime Report (April 8-14, 2011) may be viewed online at:  
[http://tppolice.blogspot.com/2011/04/takoma-park-police-department-weekly\\_14.html](http://tppolice.blogspot.com/2011/04/takoma-park-police-department-weekly_14.html).  
*(Police)*

25. **Officers in Training:** On 4-12, Lt. Collington, Sgt. Cipperly, Sgt. Poole and Sgt. Skibicki attended Sergeants Training Day hosted by the Montgomery County Police Department, held at the Montgomery County PSTA, Rockville, Maryland. *(Police)*

26. **Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 72 traffic stops, which resulted in citations, one vehicle impound, one Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) arrest from traffic, one Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrest from traffic and one warrant service from traffic.

***During April 8-12, 2011, the following details were completed:***

#### April 8, 2011

- 7500 block of Carroll Avenue (speeding) conducted a 60-minute detail and issued three State citations for speed, one other State citation and one warning.
- Maple Avenue & Lincoln Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued five State citations.

#### April 11, 2011

- East West Highway & New Hampshire Avenue (improper turn) - conducted a 60-minute detail and issued seven State citations.
- Mississippi Avenue & Hilltop Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.
- 1000 block of East West Highway (speeding) - conducted a two and a half hour detail and issued 11 State citations for speed and seven other State citations.

#### April 12, 2011

- 7500 block of Carroll Avenue (speeding) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued two State citations for speed and one other State citation.
- East West Highway & New Hampshire Avenue (improper turn) - conducted a 90-minute detail and issued six State citations and one warning.
- Takoma Langley Crossroads area (tag reader/suspensions) conducted a detail at various times and issued five State citations and one warning.
- Ethan Allen Avenue & Jackson Avenue (stop sign enforcement) - conducted a 30-minute detail and issued no citations or warnings.

*(Police)*